

REMARKS:

In the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-20. Claims 1-6 and 20 are amended herein. No new matter is presented. Thus, claims 1-20 are pending and under consideration. The rejections are traversed below.

OBJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112¶2:

The Examiner objected to claims 3 and 4 as being indefinite. Claims 3 and 4 are amended herein to recite, "setting values set during a setup operation for the setting items that are not reflected in the use environment are replaced by values set by software different from the software used during the setup operation."

Therefore, withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103(a):

Claims 1-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over what the Examiner refers to Applicant's admission of prior art (AAPA) and U.S. Patent No. 5,454,074 (Hartel).

The Examiner maintains the rejection based on the discussion of FIG. 5 in the present application related to listing of setup items in a BIOS setup screen without identifying or indicating whether settings are enabled or disabled (see, discussion on page 5, line 15 through page 6, line 2 of the present application). The AAPA is directed to listing of setup items without indicating settings controlled by the BIOS upon installation of a new version of an application. As such, the AAPA presents a problem because a user is not provided with indication of settings that have been already implemented (i.e., enabled/disabled).

The Examiner relies on Hartel as teaching identification and display of predetermined items based on setup use history of a previous power cycle where the predetermined setting items have no setup/modification history. However, Hartel is directed to a computer-based electronic checklist system that provides normal checklists for use during routine operation and non-normal checklists for use with crew alert messages. For example, as shown in FIG. 2, if the electronic checklist requires that a switch be in a certain state and the switch is executed, the electronic checklist system automatically notes completion of that step as soon as the switch is placed in the proper state (see, col. 4, lines 48-60). That is, Hartel is directed to creating a list of things to be checked or done before operating an apparatus.

In contrast, the present invention distinguishes and displays predetermined setting items that have no setup use history or modification history. For example, the present invention displays items controlled by an application program or function (i.e., independent of items set by hardware) by storing history of these items from a previous power source cycle.

Independent claim 1, by way of example, recites, "identifying predetermined setting items among a plurality of setting items based on setup use history during a previous power source cycle", where the predetermined setting items have "no setup use history or modification history" and include "items set by an application program." Claim 1 further recites, "displaying the predetermined setting items in a manner recognizable from other setting items."

Independent claim 2 as amended recites, "storing setup history information including setting items by an application program", "identifying setting items not reflected in a use environment of the computer and controlling display of the setting items not reflected in the use environment in a manner recognizable from other setting items."

Similarly, independent claims 5 and 6 recite, "identifying predetermined setting items among a plurality of setting items based on setup use history during a previous power source cycle", where the predetermined setting items have "no setup use history or modification history and [include] items set by an application program."

Independent claims 7 and 18 recite that the present invention includes setting items related to a use environment controlled by "a first program" and "a second program" and identifying items set accordingly including "priority" thereof.

The claimed invention in claims 19 and 20 includes, "displaying the set up items including values set using a software other than a software used during the set up operation" (claim 19) and "configuring a use environment... without requiring direct use of a BIOS setup screen [where] values of the configured use environment include items set by an application program in a previous power source cycle that are disabled in a current power source cycle" (claim 20).

The cited references, alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest the above-discussed features of each of the independent claims 1, 2, 5-7 and 18-20.

It is submitted that the independent claims are patentable over the cited references.

For at least the above-mentioned reasons, claims depending from the independent claims are patentably distinguishable over the cited references. The dependent claims are also

independently patentable. For example, as recited in claim 8, "the second setup function setting device disables the same item set by the first setup function setting device" where the second setup function is controlled by a second program and the first setup function is controlled by a first program (see also claim 7 upon which claim 8 depends). The cited references, alone or in combination, do not teach these features of claim 8.

Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION:

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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